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Marshall and Hurst's Practical Zoology.⁵—The fourth edition of this work being called for, the work of revising and editing it has devolved upon Mr. Hurst, to bring the work up to date numerous changes have been made, the most important of which, perhaps, are in the chapter on Amphioxus.

The work as originally written was intended to give the junior students of Owens College, Manchester, England, a practical acquaintance with animal morphology, and the present revised edition will be found a useful laboratory text book for any one who wishes to acquire an insight into the leading facts of Animal structure, and a technical knowledge of the principal methods of research.

The illustrations are intentionally few, as it is expected that the student will make drawings from his own dissections. These are, however, of excellent quality.

Works of this class are of utility in the laboratory, but they do not take the place of general text books as guides to the larger problems of zoology.

Elementary Lessons in Zoology.⁶—In the hands of a competent teacher this book will be of value in giving a student a fair start in the study of zoology. It is in reality a Laboratory Manual. Four simple types of animal structure are given to familiarize the student with the meaning of the terms, *cell*, *protoplasm*, *tissue*, *differentiation*, *sexuality*, etc. Considerable attention is given to insects; then follow in turn common forms of Crustaceans, Worms, Molluscs and Vertebrates. The study of the animal alive, and in its biological relation to its environment, is made a prominent feature. To this end methods of observation are given with suggestions as to the facts to be ascertained. In this way the student acquires a practical knowledge of the life histories of the animals studied.

An appendix contains directions for the preparation of material for study.

The illustrations are intended as guides to identification, and in a very general way, they answer the purpose.

Chats about British Birds.⁷—The depiction of bird life in this volume is quite a vivid and interesting as was that of insect life, by

⁵ A Junior Course in Practical Zoology. By A. Milnes Marshall and C. Herbert Hurst. Fourth Edition revised by Mr. Hurst. New York, 1895. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

⁶ Elementary Lessons in Zoology. By James G. Needham. New York, 1895. American Book Co.

⁷ Chats about British Birds. By J. W. Tuft, London, Geo. Gill & Sons.

the same author, in *Rambles in Alpine Valleys*. Members of thirty three families are described in an easy, gossipy fashion, with special reference to their food and nesting-habits. No opportunity is lost for pointing out that in general, birds are the farmers best agents for protecting crops from insects and worms. The fruit eating proclivities of the Thrush and the Black bird in the late summer are excused for the wholesale destruction in early spring of insects, worms, slugs and snails.

The book is intended to interest young people in the study of Ornithology, but from the facts set forth, it may also be of use in creating among farmers a better appreciation of the service rendered them by birds, and lead them to see the necessity of organized protection for the feathered race.

Check List of North American Birds.⁸—The American Ornithologist's Union have issued a second edition of the Check-list published in 1885. The new addition includes the numerous additions and nomenclature changes made in the several supplements to the Check List since the publication of the original edition, together with a revision of the "habitats" of the species and subspecies, but omitting the Code of Nomenclature.

Species whose status as North American birds is doubtful are listed separately under the heading "Hypothetical," and the fossil birds are likewise separately classified.

As an authoritative nomenclator this book has much value, but it could be rendered more authoritative if the A. O. U. would insist on correct orthography in all cases where this is ascertainable. In several instances the list adheres to obvious misspelling and typographical errors; such as *hasitata* for *hæsitata*; *cincinatus* for *cinnatus*; *Leptatila* for *Leptoptila*; *Ammodramus* for *Ammodromus*, etc.; Greek spellings instead of Latin are retained wherever the original authors used them, and some bad examples of the *vox hybrida* are perpetuated.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

Annual Report of the State Geologist of New Jersey for the year 1893. From the Survey.

ASHLEY, G. H.—Studies in the Neocene of California. Extr. Journ. Geol., Vol. III, 1895. From the author.

⁸ The A. O. U. List of North American Birds. Second Edition. New York, 1895.